

By: Patrick

H.B. No. 2550

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the consolidation of the Higher Education Enrollment Assistance Program and the Higher Education Assistance Plan and the transfer of certain enrollment assistance duties to institutions of higher education.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Subchapter U, Chapter 51, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 51.810 to read as follows:

Sec. 51.810. HIGHER EDUCATION ASSISTANCE PLANS. (a) In this section:

(1) "Coordinating board" means the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

(2) "Institution of higher education" and "private or independent institution of higher education" have the meanings assigned by Section 61.003.

(b) The institution of higher education in closest geographic proximity to a public high school in this state identified by the coordinating board for purposes of this section as substantially below the state average in the number of graduates who enroll in higher education institutions shall enter into an agreement with that high school to develop a plan to increase the number of students from that high school enrolling in higher education institutions. Under the plan, the institution shall:

(1) collaborate with the high school to:

1           (A) provide to prospective students information  
2 related to enrollment in an institution of higher education or a  
3 private or independent institution of higher education, including  
4 admissions, testing, and financial aid information;

5           (B) assist those prospective students in  
6 completing applications and testing related to enrollment in those  
7 institutions, including admissions and financial aid applications,  
8 and fulfilling testing requirements; and

9           (C) target efforts to increase the number of  
10 Hispanic students and African American male students enrolled in  
11 higher education institutions; and

12           (2) actively engage with local school districts to  
13 provide access to rigorous, high-quality dual credit opportunities  
14 for qualified high school students as needed.

15           (c) An institution of higher education must include a plan  
16 developed by the institution under this section and the results of  
17 that plan in its annual report to the coordinating board under  
18 Section 51.4032.

19           (d) The coordinating board shall include in its annual  
20 "Closing the Gaps" higher education plan progress report a summary  
21 of the results of the plans developed and administered under this  
22 section.

23           (e) The coordinating board may adopt rules to implement this  
24 section.

25           SECTION 2. Sections 61.07622 and 61.088, Education Code,  
26 are repealed.

27           SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2013.